

Amendments to the Specification

Please insert a new paragraph between paragraphs [0042] and [0043] of the published application as follows:

--Figure 7D is a side view of an alternate embodiment of Figure 7C that includes a ratchet mechanism; --.

Revise paragraph [0083] of the published application as follows:

--FIG. 7A is an enlarged, perspective view of cable-end tightening device 230. The cable-end tightening device 230 includes a twist-tightening mechanism 232, threaded member 234 and end section 236. The end section 236 includes an aperture 238 for accommodating a rivet, screw or other fastener to affix the cable-end tightening device 230 to the boot. FIG. 7B is an enlarged, top view of the cable-end device 230 of FIG. 7A. FIG. 7C is an enlarged cross-sectional view of the cable-end tightener 230 of FIGS. 7A and/or 7B. The threaded member 234 is connected to an end of cable 221 or 222 and meshes with teeth 233 of the twist-tightening mechanism 232. The end section 236 includes a free-spinning connector portion 237. Thus, when in use, a wearer turns or twists the mechanism 232 in a first direction to either pull cable 222 towards the end section 236 to tighten the cable system, or turns the mechanism in a second, opposite direction to extend the cable to loosen the cable system. Typically, the mechanism 232 is turned in a clockwise manner to tighten the cable, and turned counter-clockwise to loosen the cable. In an implementation, the threaded member 234 and teeth section 233 are about one-inch long to permit about one-inch of cable length adjustment. As an alternative embodiment, Figure 7D illustrates an embodiment that includes a ratchet mechanism for tightening the cable.--.